

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 230945Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7034

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 0963

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR JO MO US IR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO

REF (A) AMMAN 0951, (B) RABAT 0938, (C) STATE 041786

1. PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ME TWICE IN
LAST 12 HOURS ON QUESTION OF MOROCCAN TRANSFER.

2. HE REPORTED TELEPHONE CALL FROM RABAT EVENING FEB 22 FROM
MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN JORDAN WHO HAS RETURNED TO RABAT FOR
CONSULTATIONS (REF) AMBASSADOR TAZI TOLD RIFAI THAT
AIRPLANES (F-5A) ARE URGENTLY NEEDED IN MOROCCO IN
NEXT 48 HOURS. TAZI FURTHER ASSERTED THAT MOROCCO HAD
DONE EVERYTHING REQUIRED BY US GOVERNMENT IN WAY OF
ASSURANCES AND WAS REQUESTING IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF
AIRCRAFT.

3. RIFAI SAID HE ASKED ABOUT REPLACEMENTS. TAZI
FIRST ASSERTED THAT FOR FROM THINKING OF REPLACEMENTS
MOROCCO WAS COUNTING ON GETTING 10 ADDITIONAL F-5E'S RPT F-5E'S
FROM JORDAN WHICH WERE ON ORDER FOR JORDAN IN OMING
YEAR PROGRAMS. RIFAI SAID WHEN HE PULLED HIMSELF DOWN
OFF THE CEILING AND STRAIGHTENED THE POSITION OUT
TAZI THEN OFFERED TO BUY THE F-5 A FROM JORDAN. RIFAI SAID JORDAN
WAS ENTIRELY UNINTERESTED SINCE THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO PLACE

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WHERE JORDAN COULD BUY REPLACEMENT F-5 AS. RIFAI SAID HE INSISTED

ON ONE FOR ONE DEAL OR NOTHING.

4. RIFAI THEN ASKED ME WHAT ASSURANCES AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION MOROCCO HAD PROVIDED TO USG.

5. I SAID SUBJECT TO CHECK OF OUR RECORDS, MOROCCANS HAVE GIVEN US ASSURANCES THEY WOULD NOT TRANSFER IRANIAN HOWITZERS AND JORDANIAN 106MM RECILLESS RIFLES. THE QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT WAS IMPLIED BUT I WAS NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THIS IMPLICATION RATHER THAN SPECIFICATION OF NO TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR F-5 A'S WOULD BE (PARA 1, REF B) FURTHER I REMINDED RIFAI THAT WE HAD JUST RECEIVED JORDAN'S LETTER REQUESTING TRANSFER AND THAT WE HAD CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS AS WELL TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH.

6. AFTER CHECK OF OUR FILES (0-4- 1 REF B) I RECONFIRMED THIS POINT TO RIFAI. HE SAID IN THE INTERIM HE HAD RECEIVED ANOTHER TELEPHONE CALL FROM MOROCCO AND THAT KING HASSAN WAS SENDING A SPECIAL ENVOY TO AMMAN TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

7. IN THE MEANTIME, RIFAI ASKED IF WE COULD CLARIFY FOR HIM AND THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF OUR EMBASSY IN RABAT FOR THE MOROCCANS WHETHER ANYTHING ADDITIONAL FROM THE MOROCCANS IS REQUIRED BY THE USG IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF 20 F-5 A'S FROM JORDAN. RIFAI DID NOT ASK, BUT MADE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT JORDAN WILL STILL INSIST ON WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED REPLACEMENT ARRANGEMENT.

7. COMMENT: KING'S INITIAL BURST OF GENEROSITY IS RUNNING INTO PRESSURE FROM TWO SOURCES-- EXTREME UNHAPPINESS IN JORDAN'S AIR FORCE AND THREAT BY AIR FORCE COMMANDER TO RESIGN OVER THE LOSS OF TWO-THIRDS OF HIS F-5 FLEET GARNERED AT GREAT EXPENDITURE OF A RATHER SEVERE MORALE PROBLEM AMONG JORDANIAN AIR FORCE PILOTS ON THE ONE HAND AND ON THE OTHER WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GROWING REALIZATION IN MOROCCO THAT ONE FOR
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ONE REPLACEMENT OF F-5 A BY F-5 E IS A RATHER HEAVY PRICE TO PAY FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF THE F-5 A FROM JORDAN. INCIDENTALLY SOME OF THIS SEEMS ALREADY TO HAVE STRUCK THE KING AS WELL. RIFAI TELLS ME THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN TRAINING AND READINESS OF HIS PILOTS SHOULD THE AIRCRAFT BE ACTUALLY TRANSFERRED HE IS CURRENTLY THINKING OF ASKING SAUDIS (AND POSSIBLY EVEN IRANIANS) TO STATION SOME F-5 A IN JORDAN. HE

WOULD THEN ASK THAT HIS OWN PILOTS BE BLE TO "GET
TIME" ON THESE AIRPLANES TO KEEP UP THEIR TRAINING
STATUS THIS IS JUST ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE JERRY
BUILT NATURE OF THE EVOLVING JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MOROCCO. IN THIS CONNECTION WE
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A LATE UP DATE FOR RIFAI ON
PRESENT ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN SETTLEMENTS EFFORTS. WHILE
WE WOULD HESITATE
AT THIS POINT TO SUGGEST TO JORDAN THAT SOMETHING LESS THAN
INITIAL DELIVERY OF ALL 20F-5 A WOULD SUIT THEIR
INTERESTS IN THE AREA, WE WOULD BE MOST INTERSTED
IN EMBASSY RABAT'S COMMENTS ON THE ABILITY OF THE
MOROCCANS TO ABSORB AND USE 20-25 F-5 A ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT THE CONCURRENT ARRIVAL OF ANY
ADDITIONAL SPARE PARTS, AGE OR AVIATION MUNITIONS
AT LEAST FROM JORDANIANS SOURCES. END COMMENT

8. ACTION REQUESTED. A RESPONSE TO RIFAI ON WHETHER
WE ARE EXPECTING ANYTHING MORE FROM MOROCCO BY WAY
OF ASSURANCES ON F-5 A AND WITH DEPARTMENT APPROVAL
THE PASSAGE OF SMILIAR INFORMATION TO MOROCCANS IN
A PARTIAL ANSWER TO THEIR REQUEST TO JORDANIANS TO
EXPEDITE THE MOVEMENT OF THE F-5A FROM JORDAN TO MOROCCO.
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